

## Andrew Jackson to John Caldwell Calhoun, June 19, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO SECRETARY CALHOUN.<sup>1</sup>

1 Copy. Printed in *Am. St. Pap., Ind. Aff.*, II. 230.

Nashville, June 19, 1820.

*Sir:* On last evening I reached this place, where I recd. your letter of the 24th of May last, and one from the delegation of the state of Mississippi of the 16th May, requesting that I should accept the appointment of commissioner to aid in holding a treaty with the Choctaw Indians.

I had determined never to have any thing to do again in Indian Treaties; but finding that the President of the U. States, is desirous that I should engage in this duty, this added to the Solicitation of the delegation of that state, has determined me to depart from the resolution I had formed and to accept of the appointment. I never can withhold my services, when requested by old Monroe, and I owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Mississippi and their late Governor, for their support, in our late struggle with Great Britain—by him and them I was well supported. I feel it a duty therefore, to endeavour to serve them, when they by their representatives believe I have it in my power. There is no man I would rather be associated with, than Genl Hinds, nor one in whom I have more confidence.

In making out the instructions, permit me to suggest the propriety of pointing out the bounds west of the Mississippi out of which the land to be given the Choctaws in exchange for their land whereon they now live, is to be laid out. The wish of the real Indian Chiefs is (as I am informed) to perpetuate the existance of their Nation by concentrating the

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whole in a country that will support them as a Nation—at present they are scattered and wandering over a great space of Country, and if not shortly united will be lost to their nation in other tribes. The pride of a real Indian is in the strength of his Nation and this is a chord I mean to touch to obtain the object in view. I therefore wish to point the lands and describe its bounds, where their father the President of the U. States means to settle his red children—concentrate and perpetuate them as a nation and thereby make his children happy.

I am Sir with great respect Yr Mo. Obt. Srvt.